

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 202

By Pitts

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Sergeant First Class
Robert Roy Cummings upon his reinternment.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure our individual and collective freedom, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Tennessee have been called upon, throughout the years, to take up arms against the enemies of this great nation, risking their lives and leaving their loved ones behind to honorably safeguard the freedoms and liberties guaranteed to all citizens of these United States and vanquishing those who threaten our way of life; and

WHEREAS, one such Tennessean was Robert Roy Cummings, a United States Army veteran of the Korean War who, sixty-six years after he was declared missing in action, was finally laid to rest; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Cummings had been deployed to fight in the Korean War in 1950 by the Truman administration; he was part of the 3rd Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment based at Fort Campbell; and

WHEREAS, during the war, the 187th Regiment was deployed to the Democratic Republic of Korea, near Hajoyang; the regiment was moved to positions along the Chongchon and Kuryong rivers in order to preserve lines of communication; there, a reconnaissance patrol was assembled to gather enemy information on November 29, 1950; and

WHEREAS, during the reconnaissance mission, Sergeant Cummings and his patrol were ambushed; already beleaguered by constrictive terrain and adverse weather conditions,

they were attacked by an estimated 300,000 soldiers of the Chinese People's Volunteer Forces;
and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Army declared Sergeant Robert Cummings, a mere twenty years old at the time, missing in action in November 1950; and

WHEREAS, there are currently 7,762 Korean War veterans still unaccounted for; the U.S. Army continues to diligently search for these missing American soldiers in hopes of bringing long-awaited closure to their loved ones; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Cummings's remains were recovered in November of 2016, over half a century after he was declared missing in action; he was laid to rest at last at the Resthaven Memorial Gardens in Clarksville; and

WHEREAS, among the mourners was Sergeant Robert Cummings's son, Rex Cummings, who was born two months after his father went missing; though he never knew his father, he has long cherished the letter his father penned only ten days before being declared missing in action, wherein his father asks how the baby is doing and says he looks forward to returning home soon, hopefully by Christmas; and

WHEREAS, the reinternment of Sergeant Cummings brings closure to those who lost him sixty-six years ago, particularly his brothers and sisters and his son; and

WHEREAS, while no offering can properly relay our gratitude for his bravery and dedication to preserving the blessed freedom that is inseparable from our American heritage and ideals, it is most appropriate that we should honor Sergeant Cummings to the full extent of our ability, as he made the ultimate sacrifice while preserving the liberties we enjoy today; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Sergeant First Class Robert Roy Cummings, a United States Army veteran of the Korean War, a hero who at last has returned home.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.